

United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2012-0015-EA

Date March 16, 2012

2012 Wilderness Trail Re-Alignment & Maintenance

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Kingman Field Office
2755 Mission Blvd
Kingman, AZ 86401
Phone: 928-718-3700
FAX: 928-718-3761



Title
DOI-BLM-AZ-CO10-2012-0015-EA
2012 Wilderness Trail Re-Alignment & Maintenance

I. Introduction: The 2012 Wilderness Trail Re-Alignment & Maintenance EA # DOI-BLM-AZ-CO10-2012-0015-EA will be for the re-alignment, maintenance, construction, and rehabilitation of sections of trails within the Wabayuma Peak Wilderness and Mount Tipton Wilderness. Wabayuma Peak Trail is located in the Hualapai Mountains, inside the Wabayuma Peak Wilderness, approximately 17 miles south of Kingman, east of Interstate Highway 40. Twenty Six Wash Trail is located in the Cerbat Mountains, inside the Mount Tipton Wilderness, approximately 26 miles northwest of Kingman, east of US Highway 93 and west of Stockton Hill Road. Both trails are located in the Kingman Field Office (KFO) area of jurisdiction. The trails are located in T18N R16W section 2 and T25N R18W section 11, respectively of the Gila and Salt River Base Line and Meridian (USGS 7.5' Quadrangle Yucca NW, Ariz. 1970; Quadrangle Mount Tipton Ariz, 1968).

A. Background: Wabayuma Peak and Mount Tipton areas were designated as Wilderness with the passage of the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990. The Wabayuma Peak & Mount Tipton Wilderness Management Plan, Environmental Assessment, and Decision Record (WMP/EIS) was completed August 1995 establishing the existing Twenty Six Wash Trail and Wabayuma Trail as designated trails. Since then, trail degradation has occurred on steep sections of the trail due to rainwater erosion and recreational trail riding. If approved, the proposed actions described in this environmental assessment will allow for re-alignment of sections of these trails (totaling approximately 2.5 miles) in more environmentally benign locations in the same vicinity. Maps 1 and 2.

B. Purpose and Need: The purpose of the proposed action is to comply with the policy statement of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (Sec. 603. [43 U.S.C. 1782]), which directs BLM to preserve and protect certain public lands (wilderness) in their natural condition while providing for use and enjoyment of wilderness by people. BLM H-8320-1 – Recreation and Visitor Services Planning Handbook provides policy for trail maintenance. The proposed action is needed for reducing erosion; lessening trail maintenance frequency; and to protect the soils and waters of Colorado/Grand Canyon Watershed. The need for the trail restoration project at Twenty Six Wash and Wabayuma Peak is because of the current situation of heavily eroded areas of the trails which require extensive maintenance due to the extreme grade (up to 40%). The BLM proposes to authorize the re-alignment of portions of the trails in areas where grade is over 20% by youth crews.

C. Decision to be made: The decision that needs to be made is whether the BLM will authorize the re-alignment of trails in areas where the grade exceeds 20%.

D. Conformance with BLM Land Use Plans(s): *Kingman Resource Management Plan/EIS* Date Approved: March 1995. The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP – “Wilderness areas will be managed according to the provisions of law, BLM wilderness management regulations found at 43 CFR 8560 and subsequent wilderness management plans.” – Page 27; – “Recreation ... trails... will be maintained and developed where needed to enhance recreation opportunities and allow public use.” – Page 26.

E. Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, or other Plans: The proposed action is in conformance with the objective of 43 CFR, Part 8560, which requires BLM to preserve and protect wilderness character while providing for the use and enjoyment of wilderness by people in a manner that will leave these areas unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness. The proposed action also conforms to the direction

given in the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990 (PL 101-628) and the Wilderness Act of 1964 (PL 88-577) which have the same objective as that given in the BLM Regulations. The two trails are listed as designated trails in the Wabayuma Peak & Mount Tipton Wilderness Management Plan, Environmental Assessment, and Decision Record (1996), EA#AZ-025-94-044.

F. Identification of Issues: The BLM policy defined in manual 8560.31 calls for trail construction only when necessary for protection of wilderness resources.

Internal scoping occurred on February 21, 2012 (Attachment 1 – NEPA minutes 2/21/12) where potential issues were identified by an interdisciplinary team. The proposed project was posted on the Kingman website “In the Spotlight” on February 28, 2012 for external scoping. Issues identified were:

Threatened and Endangered Species – How will the proposed action and alternatives affect the habitat of T&E species, State listed species and BLM Sensitive species?

Wildlife – How will the proposed action and alternatives affect the habitat of wildlife species?

Migratory Birds – How will the proposed action and alternatives affect the habitat of upland and migratory birds?

Cultural Resources – Will the proposed action and alternatives affect any cultural resources?

Wilderness – Will the proposed actions and alternatives affect wilderness character and other criteria?

Wild Horse and Burros – How will the proposed action and alternatives affect the habitat of WH&B?

II. DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES, INCLUDING PROPOSED ACTION

Recreation use of the trail would be year-round, and would be limited to non-motorized uses such as hiking and horseback riding.

In order to meet the purpose and need, the BLM has developed a range of action alternatives. The alternatives were developed based on whether they would meet the purpose and need and any unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.

A. Alternative 1 - Proposed Action: The BLM proposes to authorize the re-alignment of portions of the trails in areas where grade is over 20% by youth crews. The proposed action is to perform maintenance and re-alignment on two trails, Wabayuma Trail in the Wabayuma Peak Wilderness and Twenty Six Wash Trail in Mount Tipton Wilderness in the Kingman Field Office area. Re-align portions and maintain the remainder of the trails. Restore portions of the trails where degradation has occurred and portions of the trails abandoned due to the realignment. Is it proposed that this project be completed during FY12. However, the amount of brush clearing work needed for the re-alignment may require that brushing be completed one FY and tread work complete the following FY for the Wabayuma Peak Trail.

The trail would be constructed to BLM standards, which includes a tread outslope of 1-2 percent, a sustained 2-3 foot wide level trail surface at a grade with pitches of up to 15 percent, and a maximum sustained grade of 10 percent. Ideally, the grade would be 8 percent or less to reduced soil erosion. Sections of both trails will be rerouted to locations with a lessor slope to reduce grade. Approximately 2.5 miles of trail (affecting 1.25 acres) will be rerouted and approximately eight miles of trail will be maintained. Reclamation areas of the trail that have been rerouted will be restored by means of raking, re-vegetation and other viable, proven methods of trail restoration. Reclamation has been successfully carried out on previous closed routes in both wilderness areas.

The maintenance of the trails would consist of clearing of the pathway involving brush trimming and removal by means of dispersal. The brush clearing would be on both sides of the trail and up to four feet from the center of the trail. Maintenance of the trail drainages include the cleaning and repairing of structures, culverts, under-drains, water bars, grade dips and drainage ditches. Maintenance of the trail tread includes grading tread, removal of slough and slide material with rakes, and surface replacement with similar material. All trail work would be accomplished with hand tools. Similar maintenance activity would recur on these trails on a periodic basis on a regular enough schedule to minimize environmental damage (estimated to be every three to seven years).

Conservation or Youth Corps, five to eight members per crew, would conduct the project work. The crews would camp at the Pine Flat area for one to two weeks near the Wabayuma Peak Trail construction and maintenance project. The crews would camp at the wilderness access point for one to three weeks for the Twenty-six Wash Trail construction and maintenance project. The crews would practice “Leave No Trace” ethics at their campsites and at the project sites. The crews would be requested to wash off their vehicles and tires prior to departing their home base of operation to prevent transportation and spread of weeds into the field.

All viable cacti would be transplanted using hand tools. All removed vegetation would be hand carried and dispersed in a mosaic pattern so as to not draw attention. Boulders would be moved using hand tools or non-motorized winches/come-along/grip hoists. Boulders would not be allowed to roll down the hill. Trail junctions would be marked with rock cairns. All vole potential habitat would be avoided and would remain undisturbed. New trail areas would be surveyed by a wildlife biologist prior to disturbance and if any active migratory bird nests or vole habitat would be disturbed the trail would be moved to avoid vole habitat or active nests.

Tortoise handling guidelines would be handed out to all work crews prior to project maintenance activities to increase crew awareness of proper tortoise handling etiquette and to prevent tortoise injury in case crew members encountered tortoise during trail work. (Attachment 2)

B. Alternative 2: Perform maintenance on two trails, Wabayuma Peak Trail in the Wabayuma Peak Wilderness and Twenty Six Wash Trail in Mount Tipton Wilderness in the Kingman Field Office area. Maintain approximately eight miles of trail. This project is proposed to be completed during FY12.

The maintenance of the trails would consist of clearing of the pathway involving brush trimming and removal by means of dispersal. The brush clearing would be on both sides of the trail and up to four feet from the center of the trail. Maintenance of the trail drainages include the cleaning and repairing of structures, culverts, under-drains, water bars, grade dips and drainage ditches. Maintenance of the trail tread includes grading tread, removal of slough and slide material with rakes, and surface replacement with similar material. All trail work would be accomplished with hand tools. Similar maintenance activity would recur on these trails on a periodic basis on a regular enough schedule to minimize environmental damage (estimated to be every two to five years).

Conservation or Youth Corps, five to eight members per crew, would conduct the project work. The crews would camp at the Pine Flat area for one to two weeks near the Wabayuma Peak Trail construction and maintenance project. The crews would camp at the wilderness access point for one to three weeks for the Twenty-six Wash Trail construction and maintenance project. The crews would practice “Leave No Trace” ethics at their campsites and at the project sites. The crews would be requested to wash off their vehicles

and tires prior to departing their home base of operation to prevent transportation and spread of weeds into the field.

All viable cacti would be transplanted using hand tools. All removed vegetation would be hand carried and dispersed in a mosaic pattern so as to not draw attention. Boulders would be moved using hand tools or non-motorized winches/come-along/grip hoists. Boulders would not be allowed to roll down the hill. Trail junctions would be marked with rock cairns.

Tortoise handling guidelines would be handed out to all work crews prior to project maintenance activities to increase crew awareness of proper tortoise handling etiquette and to prevent tortoise injury in case crew members encountered tortoise during trail work. (Attachment 2)

C. Alternative 3 - No Action: (Current Management): If the no action alternative were selected, the proposed repairs and improvements would not occur. Currently, run-off has formed deep cuts in the trail in areas where the grade exceeds 15 percent. These conditions would continue to deteriorate with no maintenance or repair. Brush would encroach on the trail eventually obliterating the trail if no maintenance occurred.

III. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT:

The Mount Tipton Wilderness is located in the Cerbat Mountain range in Mohave County, Arizona. This wilderness is situated in the north end of the range, about 15 air miles north-northwest of Kingman, Arizona and lying on the eastern limits of the town of Dolan Springs. Wabayuma Peak Wilderness is located in the Hualapai Mountain range in Mohave County, Arizona. This wilderness is situated in the north end of the range about 10 air miles south of Kingman, Arizona.

Wilderness Values (including Recreation and Visual Resources) Twenty-six Wash, a valley draining to the east from the ridge of the Cerbat Mountains, and Wabayuma Peak, a prominent feature of the Hualapai Mountains, exhibit a high degree of naturalness, with little evidence of human use and development. Mount Tipton Wilderness and Wabayuma Wilderness are classified as Visual Resource Management Class I, which is a classification reserved for highly scenic areas located in special management areas, such as wilderness. The objective for management of Class I areas is to preserve the existing character of the landscape; however, it does not preclude very limited management activity. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention.

Visitation to the area has not been measured at Twenty Six Wash Trail and measured by trailhead register at Wabayuma Peak Trail, is estimated by BLM to be very light (100-200 people per year) for Twenty-six Wash Trail to moderate (200-400 people per year) for Wabayuma Trail. Some visitors are hunters, pursuing mule deer, mourning doves or Gambel quail. Other visitor activities may include hiking, camping, sightseeing, wildlife observation or photography. Twenty-six Wash and Wabayuma Trails are two of four public access points identified in the Wabayuma Peak and Mount Tipton Wilderness Management Plan and in wilderness brochures available to the public.

The area's remoteness and rugged topography provide visitors with excellent opportunities for solitude and natural quiet. Natural quiet is only occasionally broken by the overhead passing of aircraft or by hunter's guns. Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities are readily available to the public in Twenty-six Wash and Wabayuma.

Vegetation Twenty-six Wash is characterized by two vegetation communities. The upper part of the canyon is located within an Arizona chaparral community. Typical plants here include pinyon pine, juniper, silk tassel, desert ceanothus and turbinella oak. Lower in the canyon, a transition is made from Arizona chaparral to Mohave desert scrub. Plants in this transition area include those listed for the chaparral community, plus Mormon tea, flattop buckwheat, snakeweed, prickly pear, cholla, beavertail cactus, sideoats grama, catclaw acacia and linear-leaf goldenbush. Also present are several exotic Mediterranean annuals, notably red brome, cheatgrass, filaree and Mediterranean grass.

Twenty-six Wash, where it travels through the wilderness area, has been classified as non-riparian (Riparian Inventory 3-17-99, AZ-0062-113A-99). This is an ephemeral wash which is vegetated by a mix of desert upland plants and the facultative plant, squaw waterweed or false willow, *Baccharis sergiloides* (1988, USDI, USFWS. National List of Plant Species that occurs in wetlands: 1999 Arizona). Squaw waterweed was not considered to be abundant enough to classify this area as riparian.

Wabayuma Peak Trail area is characterized by two vegetation communities. The lower portion of the trail is dominated by chaparral consisting of scrub oak and manzanita. The higher elevations have pocket of ponderosa pines.

Wildlife Common wildlife species found within chaparral and Mohave desert shrub are likely to be found within the project area. These may include, but are not limited to, black-tailed jackrabbit, cottontail rabbit, few mule deer, black-throated sparrow, Gambel's quail, mourning dove, western whip-tailed lizard, side-blotched lizard, gophersnake and western diamondback rattlesnake. Twenty-six Wash likely lacks the vegetative diversity to attract a greater variety of wildlife species more commonly associated with diverse riparian areas.

There is habitat for two Threatened and Endangered Species potentially affected by the project: the Hualapai Mexican vole *Microtus mexicanus hualapaiensis* and the American Peregrine falcon *Falco peregrinus anatum*. The vole is known to inhabit the ponderosa pine habitat of the Hualapai Mountains in the vicinity of the Wabayuma Peak Trail. Peregrine falcons nest in the Cerbat Mountains. The Sonoran Desert Tortoise *Gopherus agassizii* is designated as a Candidate species and habitat might be found in the washes in the lower elevations of the areas. Both areas are home to many wildlife species and migratory birds. Arizona Game and Fish Department conduct annual census surveys for elk, deer, and javelina. Part of the Cerbat Wild Horse Herd lies within the Mount Tipton Wilderness. It encompasses about 60% of the wilderness. Most of the herd area lies out of the wilderness to the south (Wabayuma Peak & Mount Tipton Wilderness Management Plan, Environmental Assessment, and Decision Record, 1995 – BLM/AZ/PL-95/018).

Cultural Resources Cultural resources are known to exist in the vicinity of both projects. This region as a whole is poorly understood and very little survey information is on file. Ethnographic and historic documentation indicate that the general area near both Wabayuma Peak and Twenty Six Wash were, in fact, utilized throughout history and prehistory. Common site types include seasonal camps, rockshelters, artifact scatters and historic ranching related sites.

Economics Outdoor recreation opportunities in Mohave County contribute to the overall economic health of local communities. Recreation visitation to local wilderness areas is a part of those outdoor recreation opportunities. No data has been collected by BLM as to annual numbers of persons seeking wilderness recreation. It is assumed that visitation is light, based on field observations by BLM staff, and by the number of public inquiries received at the BLM office. It could therefore be assumed that the overall contribution to the local economy from wilderness recreation visitors would be small.

The affected environment was considered and analyzed by an interdisciplinary team as documented in the KFO Project Scoping Form found in the Administrative Record for this proposal. Resources of concern that are either not present in the project area or would not be impacted to a degree that requires detailed analysis will not be discussed here. Resources which could be impacted by the proposed action or alternatives are discussed below.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

Wildlife (Including T&E Species and Migratory Birds)

Alternative 1 – Proposed Action Re-alignment and Maintenance

Threatened and Endangered Species: All potential vole habitats would be avoided therefore there would be no impact to this species. Sensitive wildlife species such as desert bighorn sheep and desert tortoises, which are generally considered to be negatively impacted by roads, are not present in this area.

Wildlife: The amount of habitat disturbed would occur in the areas directly adjacent to the hiking trail.

Approximately 2.5 miles of new trail (1.5 miles and one mile for the two trails) would cause temporary disturbance to the habitat in each area (approximately 0.75 acres and 0.5 acres) which would be mitigated by restoration of the abandoned sections of trail.

Migratory Birds: Foraging and nesting habitat for migratory birds would be disturbed along both trails from cutting and clearing of overgrown brush along the trail. The amount of habitat would occur in the areas directly adjacent to the hiking trail. Approximately 2.5 miles of new trail would cause temporary disturbance to the habitat in each area (approximately 1.25 acres). Active nests would be avoided so the project should not result in any death or loss of eggs for migratory bird species.

Alternative 2 Maintenance

Threatened and Endangered Species: There are no known falcon nesting sites located near the Twenty Six Wash Trail, so there should be no impacts to this species. The Hualapai Mexican vole might be temporarily disturbed during the project period. Sensitive wildlife species such as desert bighorn sheep and desert tortoises, which are generally considered to be negatively impacted by roads, are not present in this area.

Wildlife: The amount of habitat disturbed is small as it would occur in the areas directly adjacent to the hiking trail.

Migratory Birds: Foraging and nesting habitat for migratory birds would be disturbed along the trails from cutting and clearing of overgrown brush along the trails. The amount of habitat affected would be small as cutting/clearing would occur no more than four feet from the center of the trail and the cutting would occur in the areas directly adjacent to the hiking trails.

Alternative 3 – No action

Threatened and Endangered Species: The Hualapai Mexican vole might be continued to be disturbed by hikers and campers as they traverse the Ponderosa Pine habitat of the current trail.

Sensitive wildlife species such as desert bighorn sheep and desert tortoises, which are generally considered to be negatively impacted by roads, are not present in this area.

Wildlife: The habitat would not be disturbed.

Migratory Birds: The habitat for migratory birds would not be disturbed.

Cultural

Alternative 1 – Proposed Action Re-alignment and Maintenance

No impacts to known cultural resources are anticipated as a result of proposed maintenance activities. A Class III cultural resources survey was recently conducted in the areas of the proposed re-alignment. Nothing of cultural significance was observed.

Alternative 2 Maintenance

No impacts to known cultural resources are anticipated as a result of utilizing this alternative.

Alternative 3 – No action

This alternative would have no effect on cultural resources in the area.

Wild Horse and Burros

Alternative 1 – Proposed Action Re-alignment and Maintenance

The amount of habitat disturbed would occur in the area directly adjacent to the hiking trail. Approximately 1.5 miles of new trail in the Mount Tipton Wilderness would cause temporary disturbance to the habitat (approximately 0.75 acres).

Alternative 2 Maintenance

Maintenance will occur in areas already disturbed so should have no impact on Wild Horse habitat.

Alternative 3 – No action

No activity would occur resulting in no impact.

Wilderness Values (including Recreation and Visual Resources)

Alternative 1 – Proposed Action Re-alignment and Maintenance

Recreation and Visual Resources: The trails would remain clear and well identified for the public to follow.

Any current erosion problems would be repaired and maintenance would be performed to prevent or minimize any future problems. The frequency of maintenance would be reduced to potentially every 5-7 years.

Restoration work would repair the damage to the portions of the trail degraded by erosion caused by run-off.

The public would benefit by a gentler grade to the trails as it would make the hike more enjoyable and may entice more visitors to the area

Wilderness Values, Other Criteria, and Safety: See Minimum Requirements Analysis – Attachment 3.

Alternative 2 Maintenance

Recreation and Visual Resources: The trails would remain clear and well identified for the public to follow.

Any current erosion problems would be repaired and maintenance would be performed to prevent or minimize any future problems. The frequency of maintenance would continue to be every 2-3 years and trail

degradation due to run-off would continue to result in erosion of soils and cuts in the trails. Trail by-pass of degraded area by visitors may occur resulting in inadvertent widening sections of the trails

Wilderness Values, Other Criteria, and Safety: See Minimum Requirements Analysis – Attachment 3.

Alternative 3 – No action

Recreation and Visual Resources: The proposed repairs and improvements would not occur; areas of the trails might brush in and become hard to find resulting in visitor frustration. Erosion and trail degradation problems will persist and may even accelerate.

Wilderness Values, Other Criteria, and Safety: See Minimum Requirements Analysis – Attachment 3.

V. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS FROM THE PROPOSED ACTION ALTERNATIVE:

No significant cumulative impacts are anticipated.

VI. DESCRIPTION OF MITIGATION MEASURES and RESIDUAL IMPACTS:

None identified

VII. PERSONS/AGENCIES CONSULTED: This proposal was presented at the BLM/ bi-monthly project coordination meetings held (Date: 2/21/2012 – Attachment 1). Persons expressing an interest in reviewing the proposal are listed on the KFO Scoping Form, and below.

- Rebecca Peck, Lead Wildlife Biologist, Kingman Field Office
- Ammon Wilhelm, Wildlife Biologist, Kingman Field Office
- Len Marceau, Outdoor Recreation Planner/Visual Resource Management, Kingman Field Office
- Chad Benson, Wild Horse and Burro Specialist, Kingman Field Office
- Tim Watkins, Archaeologist, Kingman Field Office
- Amanda Deeds, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Kingman Field Office
- Ramone McCoy, Wilderness Specialist, Kingman Field Office

Preparer(s): Ramone McCoy, Kingman Field Office

Environmental Coordinator: Ramone McCoy, Kingman Field Office

1. References

Kingman Resource Area Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement
1993 BLM/AZ/PL-93/009-4410

Mount Tipton and Wabayuma Peak Wilderness Management Plan, Environmental Assessment, and Decision
Record, 1996 (EA# AZ-025-94-044)

Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990 (PL 101-628)

Wilderness Act of 1964 (PL 88-577)

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

KINGMAN FIELD OFFICE

**2012 Wilderness Trails Re-Alignment and Maintenance
NEPA# DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2012-0015-EA**

I have reviewed this Environmental Assessment including the discussion of environmental impacts. I have determined that the Proposed Action will not have any significant impacts on the human environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The potential impacts that have been identified are localized and are of relatively short duration. No off-site, indirect or cumulative impacts were identified. I have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan.

Authorized Official: /s/ Ruben A. Sanchez Date: 3/15/2012
Ruben Sanchez, Field Office Manager
Kingman Field Office, Kingman Arizona

DECISION RECORD:

I have determined that the proposed Re-Alignment and Maintenance of Wilderness trails are in conformance with the approved land use plan. It is my decision to implement the project as described in the Proposed Action of Environmental Assessment Number DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2012-0015.

Authorized Official: /s/ Ruben A. Sanchez Date: 3/15/2012
Ruben Sanchez, Field Office Manager
Kingman Field Office, Kingman Arizona

PROJECT COORDINATION

Agenda
1:30 p.m.
2-21-2012

Facilitator: L Marceau Recorder: A Deeds Timekeeper: A Whitefield

Agenda Items: Brief description, legal description, general location, name of presenter, time needed.

Rules: 90 minute meetings
No side conversations
Stick to time limits

Additional agenda items added at end of meeting if time permits

PAST DUE CLEARANCES:

DECISION RECORDS TO BE DISCUSSED:

Pacific Wind Amendment- Mining claims causing Pacific Wind to reevaluate their proposed locations

PROJECT:

1. 2012 Wilderness Trail Re-Construction & Maintenance (Reclamation) - Wabayuma Peak and Mount Tipton Wilderness areas' 26 Wash Trail and Wabayuma Trails. Trail degradation has occurred on steep sections of the trail due to rainwater erosion and horse traffic. The proposed actions described in the environmental assessment will allow for reconstruction of these trails in more environmentally benign locations in the same vicinity. (Ramone 10 min) Proposed trail will be approximately 200 feet from existing trail. Becky Peck- T&E Clearance- Wildlife and Migratory Birds. Tim Watkins- Cultural. Chad Benson- Wild Horses. Decision Record must be issued 30 days prior to trail construction. Scoping card to be sent to wilderness groups this week. Need an updated contact list for wilderness groups from Ken Mahoney. Already have an EA for trail maintenance on 26 Wash from 2011. Proposed Action should cover future maintenance- title should not include maintenance. Ron Morfin may have an updated wilderness scoping list. No grazing issues. Comments by March 10.

2. FONSI – What should they look like? (Ramone 10 min)

FONSI process in KFO- discuss use of both methods with Ruben. Long form in the NEPA handbook, but not in regulations. Yuma uses a longer version of the short form. Dave Daniels will provide further direction.

3. Corral in an old Gravel Pit North of Highway 68:

Proposed Action: The BLM would authorize the permittee of the Mud Springs allotment to construct and approximately 48ft by 36ft corral to help gather, brand and sort cattle. The corral would be located at an abandoned gravel pit just north of highway 68 in section 06 of Township 21N. Range 19 W. Mohave County, Arizona. The Corral would be constructed using 2 inch steel pipe and 12X5 ft. six rail premade steel panels. The 2 inch pipe would be set in the ground and the panels would be welded to them to construct the corral. The permittee would also be authorized to maintain the existing access road to the corrals. No water would be available to livestock at the corral. Livestock would typically be in the corral only long enough to sorted and branded (usually less than 2 hours). A temporary water trough could be filled when livestock are in the corral if necessary to prevent dehydration. Very little perennial vegetation (a couple of creosote bushes) would be removed to construct this corral.

Range improvement permit- no water. If he puts water trough in it will only be temporary. Area already denuded. No conflicting authorizations. Why does he need a permanent corral for gathering and sorting instead of a temporary structure? He doesn't have a set calving system- easier to have a permanent corral. Sometimes panels are not tough enough for cattle. He would maintain the road directly from 68- needs an ADOT encroachment permit for access directly off of 68.

Figure 1. Location of proposed Corral site.



4. Communications Use Lease actions in the Hualapai Mountains I want to process as simultaneously as possible:

- a) Process an application, possibly two applications, for new communications facilities on North Getz Peak. GovNet is proposing constructing a microwave relay for county government emergency services to be connected in a statewide network. For this a 60 foot tall self-supporting tower and 12 ft. X 20 ft. shelter would be constructed. We will need a POD for this which I am currently requesting of the applicant. The other potential proposed new facility would be for an application submitted by Autotel for commercial mobile radio services. The proposed facilities would be a 60 ft. self-supporting tower and 8 ft. X 16 ft. shelter. This application was filed in 2005 and the cost recovery decision was appealed and IBLA has instructed us to revise these. Autotel is reconsidering if it still wants the proposed facility.

GovNet site is north of Frontiers facility where a building is already in existence. Chaparral is dominant vegetation. Site sharing should be explored as an option

- b) Process two applications for renewal of leases for BNSF for their lease on Potato Patch II (AZA 23411) and Tucson electric Power's lease on South Getz Peak (AZA 23402).

Have not received application from Tucson electric power

Becky Peck- Wildlife. Tim Watkins- Cultural. Len Marceau- VRM. Comments by April 1, 2012.

(Andy 15 mins)

5. Amendment to UniSource's right-of-way for its power line along Mineral Park Rd. to allow UniSource to lease 4 fiber optic lines authorized under an amendment to the right-of-way last September for AZAR 33296 (Mineral Park Mine needs its communications system linked in to fiber optics, but UniSource didn't know this at the time of that amendment so there were no rights granted to allow UniSource to lease the fibers). No additional facilities or work would be constructed or needed on BLM public lands. (Andy 5 mins.)

Nothing will change on the ground. Upgrade for the mine. Cultural- Tim Watkins. T&E- Ammon Wilhelm

6. 2012 Castle Rock Connector Trail

Proposed Action:

Construct and maintain an approximately one and a half mile connector trail within CFRA. The trail would begin north of Camp Beale Loop on City of Kingman lands and would end on public lands at Castle Rock Trail. BLM staff and volunteers would hike into the area and use hand tools to construct and maintain the trail following BLM standards. Trail construction would include clearing brush in a corridor 6 feet wide, followed by excavation of soil and rock. These actions would form a level walking surface 2-3 feet in width with a tread outslope of 1-2 percent. The proposed trail would maintain a grade of 8 percent or less with pitches of no greater than 10 percent. All vegetation and rock would be hand carried off the trail and spread discretely to avoid piling of plant, sand, and rock. All viable cacti, yucca, and ocotillo would be replanted. Fiberglass posts with decals to identify the new trail would be installed at trail junctions. Recreation use of the trail would be year-round, and would be limited to non-motorized uses (hiking, running, mountain biking and horseback riding). Monitoring of the trail for the presence of exotic weeds by BLM staff, volunteers and the public would help to minimize the potential for weed introduction. City of Kingman consultation was initiated and coordination efforts are underway. Trail construction would begin in the spring of 2012. (Deeds 10 mins)

Written concurrence from the City- Rob Owen. Potential raptor and tortoise concerns
Wildlife, T&E, Migratory Birds- Ammon Wilhelm. Cultural – Tim Watkins
Comments due date: To be determined after final trail proposal

Attendees: Becky Peck, John Reid, Don McClure, Ramone McCoy, Andy Whitefield, Len Marceau, Amanda Deeds, Chad Benson, Dave Daniels, Tim Watkins, Ammon Wilhelm.

Next meeting: March 6, 2012 10:30 a.m.

Facilitator: Andy Whitefield
Recorder: Becky Peck
Timekeeper: Ramone McCoy

KINGMAN FIELD OFFICE SCOPING FORM

Proposal: 2012 Wilderness Trail Construction & Maintenance

DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2012-0015-EA _____ WD01 _____

S:/BLMshare: nepa/ea_eis/ wilderness actions/
2012WildernessTrailsReconstructionMaintenance_EA.do
CX

NEPA Document Number

RMP Implementation No.

Document Location

Land Description: Mount Tipton Wilderness – T25N R18W S1,2,3,10,11; Wabayuma Peak Wilderness – T18N R16W S2,11,12

Applicant:

Authorization:

INVOLVEMENT: Indicate in the left column which disciplines need to provide information into the EA.

| Needed Input (X) | Discipline | Signature |
|---------------------|--|-------------------|
| | Lands | |
| | Minerals | |
| | Range | |
| X | Wild Horse and Burro | /s/ Chad Benson |
| | General Recreation | |
| X | Cultural and Paleontological Resources | /s/ Tim Watkins |
| X | Wilderness | /s/ Ramone McCoy |
| | Soils | |
| | Surface and Groundwater Quality/Water Rights | |
| | Air Quality | |
| X | Wildlife | /s/ Ammon Wilhelm |
| X | Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals | /s/ Ammon Wilhelm |
| X | Migratory Birds | /s/ Ammon Wilhelm |
| | Surface Protection | |
| | Hazardous Materials | |
| | Areas of Critical Environmental Concern | |
| | Visual Resources | |
| | Socio-Economics/Environmental Justice | |
| | General Botany/Noxious Weeds | |
| | Energy Policy | |

Writer: _____

Date: _____

Environmental Coordinator: _____

Date: _____

Field Manager: _____

Date: _____



United States Department of the Interior

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GUIDELINES FOR HANDLING DESERT TORTOISE ENCOUNTERED ON ROADS, VEHICLE WAYS AND PROJECT AREAS

1. Stop your vehicle and allow the tortoise to move off the road.
2. If the tortoise is not moving, gently** pick up the tortoise and move it approximately 200 feet off the road to a shaded location.
 - a. **Do not** turn the tortoise over.
 - b. Move the tortoise in the direction it was traveling. If it was crossing the road, move it in the direction it was crossing.
 - c. Keep the tortoise within 12-18 inches of the ground, move slowly so as not to cause it to become alarmed.
 - d. Release the tortoise under the shade of a bush or rock.

** Tortoise store water in their bladder. If a tortoise becomes alarmed its defense is to void its bladder onto the captor. This could lead to dehydration of the tortoise and potentially to death.

3. Prior to moving any parked vehicle or equipment at project sites, check for tortoise under the vehicle.





MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS DECISION GUIDE

WORKSHEETS

“ . . . except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of this Act...”

– the Wilderness Act, 1964

Please refer to the accompanying MRDG [Instructions](#) for filling out this guide.
The spaces in the worksheets will expand as necessary as you enter your response.

The MRDG Instructions may be found at: <http://www.wilderness.net/mrdg/>

Project Title: **2012 Wilderness Trail Realignment & Maintenance**

Step 1: Determine if any administrative action is necessary.

Description: Describe the situation that may prompt action.

Trail degradation has occurred as a result of run-off for slopes in excess of 20% grade which has increased the need for more frequent maintenance. There is a proposal to realign the trails to a gentler slope of 8% to 15%. These are designated trails in the Mount Tipton Wilderness and the Wabayuma Peak Wilderness. Erosion has resulted in deep cuts in the trails, soil loss and a general loss of esthetics when hiking the trail. Approximately 1.25 acres (2.5 mile of trails) of habitat will be impacted. Trail segments abandoned as a result of the realignment will be restored.

To determine if administrative action is necessary, answer the questions listed in A - F on the following pages by answering Yes or No, and providing an explanation.

A. Options Outside of Wilderness

Is action necessary within wilderness?

Yes: ☒ No: ☐

Explain: Yes, the trails are located within the wilderness boundaries, and so must be addressed within the wilderness.

B. Valid Existing Rights or Special Provisions of Wilderness Legislation

Is action necessary to satisfy valid existing rights or a special provision in wilderness legislation (the Wilderness Act of 1964 or subsequent wilderness laws) that allows or requires consideration of the Section 4(c) prohibited uses? Cite law and section.

Yes: ☐ No: ☒

Explain: No, because there are no valid rights or special provisions that require action to maintain trails in wilderness. Nor do the trails provide access to situations involving valid existing rights or management of special provisions.

C. Requirements of Other Legislation

Is action necessary to meet the requirements of other laws? Cite law and section.

Yes: ☐ No: ☒

Explain: No, because there are no requirements in any other legislation that require action to maintain trails. While there may be other requirement such as the Clean Water Act for reduction of erosion, Twenty-six Wash, where it travels through the wilderness area, has been classified as non-riparian (Riparian Inventory 3-17-99, AZ-0062-113A-99) and should be exempt. Wabayuma Peak Trail is far removed from any riparian areas.

D. Other Guidance

Is action necessary to conform to direction contained in agency policy, unit and wilderness management plans, species recovery plans, or agreements with tribal, state and local governments

Yes: ☒ No: ☐

Explain: Yes, because agency policy and strategies provide direction for trail maintenance and to address issues affecting resource degradation.

E. Wilderness Character

Is action necessary to preserve one or more of the qualities of wilderness character including: Untrammeled, Undeveloped, Natural, Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation, or Unique Attributes or Other Features that reflect the character of this wilderness area?

Untrammeled: Yes: ☐ No: ☒

Explain: No. Realigning/maintaining the trails is not necessary for the unrestricted, free operation of processes in the wilderness.

Undeveloped: Yes: ☐ No: ☒

Explain: No, maintaining the trails impairs the Undeveloped quality of wilderness.

Natural: Yes: ☒ No: ☐

Explain: Yes, maintaining the trails preserves naturalness. And improves the natural appearance of area where the trails were located on grades that were too steep. Lessening the grade reduces the amount of erosion.

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Yes: ☒ No: ☐

Explain: Yes, maintaining the trails helps ensure opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreations are available.

Unique Attributes or Other Features that reflect the character of this wilderness:

Yes: ☐ No: ☒

Explain: No in this case. Neither local equestrians nor the local economy are unique attributes or features of the wilderness areas

F. Public Purposes

Is action necessary to protect one or more of the public purposes for wilderness (as stated in Section 4(b) of the Wilderness Act) of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical use?

Recreational: Yes: ☒ No: ☐

Explain: Yes, maintaining trails will help support the recreation purpose by providing for access to wilderness on a maintained trail system. Use by the local equestrians is a recreational public purpose for the wilderness. Their support is needed for long-term wilderness protection.

Scenic: Yes: ☒ No: ☐

Explain: Yes, maintaining trails supports the scenic and conservation purpose by preventing deep ruts from forming in the trails.

Scientific: Yes: ☐ No: ☐

Explain:

Educational: Yes: ☒ No: ☐

Explain: Yes, maintaining trails will help support the educational purpose by providing opportunity for traditional trail building skills.

Conservation: Yes: ☒ No: ☐

Explain: Yes, maintaining trails supports the scenic and conservation purpose by preventing degradation of the environment.

Historical: Yes: ☐ No: ☐

Explain:

Step 1 Decision: **Is any administrative action necessary in wilderness?**

In reviewing the Step 1 questions in A - F above, note that not all answers have equal weight in the Step 1 Decision: A B C and E have first priority; F has second priority; D has third priority. See [Instructions](#) for details.

Yes: ☒ No: ☐

Explain: Action is justified because: the trails already exist in the wilderness; agency policy provides direction for trail maintenance; some opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are impaired by the degraded trails; and taking action supports the public purpose of recreation. These trails are designated in the Wabayuma Peak & Mount Tipton Wilderness Management Plan, Environmental Assessment, and Decision Record (1995) developed with public involvement.

The trails are already in the wilderness, and if left unmaintained will continue to limit public use, especially for those who travel with recreation livestock. There will also be continuing resource degradation and impacts to the natural quality of wilderness character. The choice boils down to this: don't maintain the trails in order to provide opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation and support the public purpose of recreation, or to try to preserve the undeveloped wilderness character with an ever-increasing trail maintenance backlog and decreasing level of public support. Also, much of Wabayuma Peak Wilderness would be inaccessible without trails through the thick chaparral.

If action is necessary, proceed to Step 2 to determine the minimum activity.

Step 2: Determine the minimum activity.

Please refer to the accompanying MRDG [Instructions](#) for information on identifying alternatives and an explanation of the effects criteria displayed below.

Description of Alternatives

For each alternative, describe what the action is, when the activity will take place, where the activity will take place, and what methods and techniques will be used. Detail the impacts to the qualities of wilderness character and other comparison criteria, including safety. Where mitigation is possible, include mitigation measures. In addition to describing the effects of the alternative, it may be useful to break down each alternative into its component parts and list in tabular form the impacts to each comparison criterion.

| |
|--|
| ALTERNATIVE # <u>1 – Proposed Action</u> |
|--|

Description: Realigning the trails to obtain a slope of 8 to 15% grade. Clearing the trails of brush and overhanging bushes/limbs using hand tools. Youth Conservation Corp would conduct the project work. All viable cacti would be transplanted using hand tools. All removed vegetation would be hand carried and dispersed in a mosaic pattern so as to not draw attention. No slash piles would be stacked. Boulders would be moved using hand tools or non-motorized winches/come-along/ grip hoists. The trail would be constructed to BLM standards, which includes a tread out-slope of 1-2 percent, a sustained 2-3 foot wide level trail surface at a maximum grade of 10 percent with pitches of up to 15 percent, and a maximum sustained grade of 10 percent. Approximately 2.5 miles of trail (1.25 acres) will be re-aligned. The abandoned sections will be restored to natural conditions, improving the natural quality of wilderness character.

Impacts to Wilderness Character:

Untrammelled – **None** of the alternatives will materially manipulate or control natural processes. Maintaining trails is not a significant trammelling of the natural processes of wilderness.

Undeveloped – **None** as the trail system is an existing development.

*Natural – Trail realignment will open new areas but this will be mitigated by restoration of the abandoned trail sections.

*Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation – Improved recreation opportunities would result from trail realignment.

Unique Attributes or Other Features – There are **no** unique features of this area, including heritage/cultural resources, which this action will affect in either a positive or negative way.

Impacts to other criteria:

*Maintaining Traditional Skills – Opportunities for learning and using traditional trail building skills are provided in trail maintenance and construction.

Special Provisions – There are **no** special provisions of the 1964 Wilderness Act or subsequent wilderness legislation that apply to trail infrastructure or maintenance of a managed trail system. Although, the grazing permittee uses the trails to access the developed spring and tank.

*Economics and Timing Constraints – Trail maintenance must be budgeted and scheduled.

Impacts to safety of visitors and workers:

*Impacts to safety to visitors, both short and long term; and impacts to project workers.

Impacts Comparison Tables

Wilderness Character Untrammeled

| | positive impacts | negative impacts | Untrammeled Grand Total |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 st component: | | | |
| 2 nd component: | | | |
| 3 rd component: | | | |
| 4 th component: | | | |
| TOTAL | | | NI |

Undeveloped

| | positive impacts | negative impacts | Undeveloped Grand Total |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 st component: | | | |
| 2 nd component: | | | |
| 3 rd component: | | | |
| 4 th component: | | | |
| TOTAL | | | NI |

Natural

| | positive impacts | negative impacts | Natural Grand Total |
|--|--|---|------------------------|
| 1 st component: Clearing trails of brush | None | Removal of brush and tree limbs | |
| 2 nd component: Transplanting cacti | None (cacti will be moved) | None (cacti will be moved) | |
| 3 rd component: Removing boulders | None | Natural conditions will be altered | |
| 4 th component: Tread construction | Abandoned trail sections will be rehabilitated | Vegetation will be removed from new sections of trail | |
| TOTAL | | | +/- |

Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

| | positive impacts | negative impacts | S or P&UR Grand Total |
|--|--|---|--------------------------|
| 1 st component: Clearing trails of brush | Primitive recreation improves as trails are improved | Negligible impacts to visitors from increased presence of crews | |
| 2 nd component: Transplanting cacti | None | None | |
| 3 rd component: Removing boulders | Primitive recreation improves as trails are improved | Negligible impacts to visitors from increased presence of crews | |
| 4 th component: Tread construction | Primitive recreation improves as trails are improved | Short term impacts to visitors from increased presence of crews | |
| TOTAL | | | +++/- |

Unique Attributes or Other Features

| | positive impacts | negative impacts | UA or OF Grand Total |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 st component: | | | |
| 2 nd component: | | | |
| 3 rd component: | | | |
| 4 th component: | | | |
| TOTAL | | | NI |

Other Criteria

Maintaining Traditional Skills

| | actions with beneficial effects | actions with adverse effects | Traditional Skills Grand Total |
|--|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 st component: Clearing trails of brush | Use of hand tools maintains traditional skills | None | |
| 2 nd component: Transplanting cacti | Use of hand tools maintains traditional skills | None | |
| 3 rd component: Removing boulders | Use of hand tools maintains traditional skills | None | |
| 4 th component: Tread construction | Use of hand tools maintains traditional skills | None | |
| TOTAL | | | ++++ |

Special Provisions

| | positive impacts | negative impacts | Special Provisions Grand Total |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 st component: | | | |
| 2 nd component: | | | |
| 3 rd component: | | | |
| 4 th component: | | | |
| TOTAL | | | NI |

Economics and Timing Constraints

| | positive impacts | negative impacts | Economics & Timing Grand Total |
|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 st component: Clearing trails of brush | None | None | |
| 2 nd component: Transplanting cacti | None | None | |
| 3 rd component: Removing boulders | None | None | |
| 4 th component: Tread construction | Maintenance schedule will be significantly reduced (2X) | Realignment is more costly than maintenance | |
| TOTAL | | | +/- |

Safety of Visitors and Workers

| | positive impacts | negative impacts | Safety Grand Total |
|--|---|---|-----------------------|
| 1 st component: Clearing trails of brush | None | Risk factors associated with heavy labour (mitigated by training) | |
| 2 nd component: Transplanting cacti | None | None | |
| 3 rd component: Removing boulders | None | Boulders could cause injury to workers | |
| 4 th component: Tread construction | Improved trails will improve visitor safety | Risk factors associated with heavy labour (mitigated by training) | |
| TOTAL | | | +/- |

ALTERNATIVE # 2 - Maintenance

Description: Clearing the trails of brush and overhanging bushes/limbs using hand tools. Youth Conservation Corp would conduct the project work. All viable cacti would be transplanted using hand tools. All removed vegetation would be hand carried and dispersed in a mosaic pattern so as to not draw attention. No slash piles would be stacked. Minimal work would be done to mitigate erosion occurring on existing trails.

Impacts Comparison Tables

**Wilderness Character
Untrameled**

| | positive impacts | negative impacts | Untrameled Grand Total |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 st component: | | | |
| 2 nd component: | | | |
| TOTAL | | | |

Undeveloped

| | positive impacts | negative impacts | Undeveloped Grand Total |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 st component: | | | |
| 2 nd component: | | | |
| TOTAL | | | |

Natural

| | positive impacts | negative impacts | Natural Grand Total |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 st component: Clearing trails of brush | None | Removal of brush and tree limbs | |
| 2 nd component: Transplanting cacti | None (cacti will be moved) | None (cacti will be moved) | |
| TOTAL | | | |

Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

| | positive impacts | negative impacts | S or P&UR Grand Total |
|--|--|---|--------------------------|
| 1 st component: Clearing trails of brush | Primitive recreation improves as trails are improved | Negligible impacts to visitors from increased presence of crews | |
| 2 nd component: Transplanting cacti | None | None | |
| TOTAL | | | |

Unique Attributes or Other Features

| | positive impacts | negative impacts | UA or OF Grand Total |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 st component: | | | |
| 2 nd component: | | | |
| TOTAL | | | |

Other Criteria

Maintaining Traditional Skills

| | actions with beneficial effects | actions with adverse effects | Traditional Skills Grand Total |
|--|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 st component: Clearing trails of brush | Use of hand tools maintains traditional skills | None | |
| 2 nd component: Transplanting cacti | Use of hand tools maintains traditional skills | None | |
| TOTAL | | | |

++

Special Provisions

| | positive impacts | negative impacts | Special Provisions Grand Total |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 st component: | | | |
| 2 nd component: | | | |
| TOTAL | | | |

NI

Economics and Timing Constraints

| | positive impacts | negative impacts | Economics & Timing Grand Total |
|--|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 st component: Clearing trails of brush | None | None | |
| 2 nd component: Transplanting cacti | None | None | |
| TOTAL | | | |

NI

Safety of Visitors and Workers

| | positive impacts | negative impacts | Safety Grand Total |
|--|------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 1 st component: Clearing trails of brush | None | Risk factors associated with heavy labour (mitigated by training) | |
| 2 nd component: Transplanting cacti | None | None | |
| TOTAL | | | |

NI

ALTERNATIVE # 3 – No Action

Description: Do not realign the trails to obtain a slope of 8 to 15% grade. The current grade has extended sections of 20 to 30% grade with sections exceeding 40%. Do not clear the trails of brush and overhanging bushes/limbs. Youth Conservation Corp would not be contracted to conduct the project work. Resource degradation will continue to occur without some rehabilitation measures. Naturalness will continue to be impaired by the paths created by visitors going around trail blockages.

Impacts Comparison Tables

Wilderness Character Untrammed

| | positive impacts | negative impacts | Untrammed Grand Total |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 st component: | | | |
| 4 th component: | | | |
| TOTAL | | | |

NI

Undeveloped

| | positive impacts | negative impacts | Undeveloped Grand Total |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 st component: | | | |
| 4 th component: | | | |
| TOTAL | | | |

NI

Natural

| | positive impacts | negative impacts | Natural Grand Total |
|--|---|---|------------------------|
| 1 st component: Clearing trails of brush | Trails would continue to become overgrown | None | |
| 4 th component: Tread construction | No vegetative removal | Trails would continue to erode Trails would need to be maintained more often | |
| TOTAL | | | |

++/--

Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

| | positive impacts | negative impacts | S or P&UR Grand Total |
|--|------------------|--|--------------------------|
| 1 st component: Clearing trails of brush | None | Primitive recreation would decrease as trails deteriorated | |
| 4 th component: Tread construction | None | Primitive recreation would decrease as trails deteriorated | |
| TOTAL | | | |

--

Unique Attributes or Other Features

| | positive impacts | negative impacts | UA or OF Grand Total |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 st component: | | | |
| 4 th component: | | | |
| TOTAL | | | |

NI

Other Criteria**Maintaining Traditional Skills**

| | actions with beneficial effects | actions with adverse effects | Traditional Skills Grand Total |
|--|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1 st component: Clearing trails of brush | None | Use of hand tools maintains traditional skills | |
| 4 th component: Tread construction | None | Use of hand tools maintains traditional skills | |
| TOTAL | | | |

--

Special Provisions

| | positive impacts | negative impacts | Special Provisions Grand Total |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 st component: | | | |
| 4 th component: | | | |
| TOTAL | | | |

NI

Economics and Timing Constraints

| | positive impacts | negative impacts | Economics & Timing Grand Total |
|--|------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 st component: Clearing trails of brush | None | No maintenance means more maintenance in the future | |
| 4 th component: Tread construction | None | Trail maintenance would have to be done more often | |
| TOTAL | | | |

--

Safety of Visitors and Workers

| | positive impacts | negative impacts | Safety Grand Total |
|--|------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 1 st component: Clearing trails of brush | None | Brushy trails can impact visitor safety | |
| 4 th component: Tread construction | None | Slopes in excess of 8% can impact visitor safety | |
| TOTAL | | | |

Comparison of Alternatives

It may be useful to compare each alternative's positive and negative impacts to each of the criteria in tabular form, keeping in mind the law's mandate to "preserve wilderness character."

| | Alternative 1 | Alternative 2 | 3 No Action |
|---|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| Untrammeled | NI | NI | NI |
| Undeveloped | NI | NI | NI |
| Natural | +/- | - | ++/-- |
| Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation | +++/- | + | -- |
| Unique / Other Features | NI | NI | NI |
| WILDERNESS CHARACTER | ++++/- | +/- | ++/- |

| | Alternative 1 | Alternative 2 | 3 No Action |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| Maintaining Traditional Skills | ++++ | ++ | -- |
| Special Provisions | NI | NI | NI |
| Economics & Timing | +/- | NI | -- |
| OTHER CRITERIA SUMMARY | +++++/- | ++ | ---- |

| | Alternative 1 | Alternative 2 | 3 No Action |
|--|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| SAFETY (visitors & workers) | +/- | NI | -- |

Safety Criterion

Occasionally, safety concerns can legitimately dictate choosing one alternative which degrades wilderness character (or other criteria) more than an otherwise preferable alternative. In that case, describe the positive and negative impacts in terms of risks to the public and workers for each alternative here but avoid pre-selecting an alternative based on the safety criteria in this section.

Documentation:

To support the evaluation of alternatives, provide an analysis, reference, or documentation and avoid assumptions about risks and the potential for accidents. This documentation can take the form of agency accident-rate data tracking occurrences and severity; a project-specific job hazard analysis; research literature; or other specific agency guidelines.

Step 2 Decision: What is the Minimum Activity?

Please refer to the accompanying MRDG [Instructions](#) before describing the selected alternative and describing the rationale for selection.

Selected alternative: Alternative 1

Rationale for selecting this alternative (including safety criterion, if appropriate): This alternative best implements the minimum requirements direction in the 1964 Wilderness Act for use of hand tools while also meeting other criteria for preserving the undeveloped and opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation qualities of wilderness character, use of traditional skills, safety, and efficient use of time and funds. In the long term, maintenance requirements will be reduced, and youth awareness and hopefully appreciation of wilderness will be enhanced.

Monitoring and reporting requirements: None

Check any Wilderness Act Section 4(c) uses approved in this alternative:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> mechanical transport | <input type="checkbox"/> landing of aircraft |
| <input type="checkbox"/> motorized equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> temporary road |
| <input type="checkbox"/> motor vehicles | <input type="checkbox"/> structure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> motorboats | <input type="checkbox"/> installation |

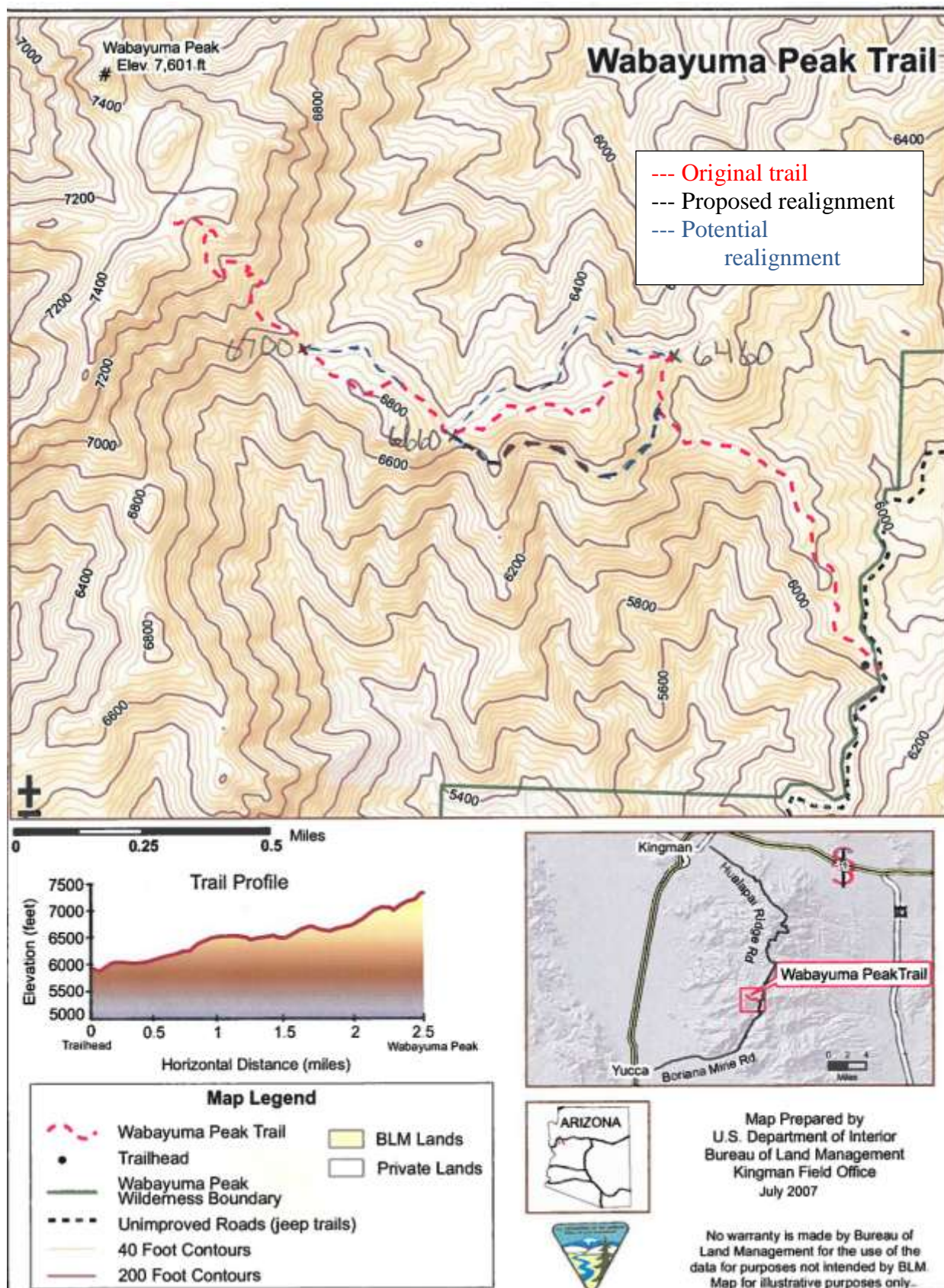
Record and report any authorizations of Wilderness Act Section 4(c) uses according to agency policies or guidelines.

None

Follow agency policies for the following review and decision authorities:

| Approvals | Signature | Name | Position | Date |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------|
| Prepared by: | /s/ Ramone B. McCoy | Ramone McCoy | Wilderness Specialist | 3/6/12 |
| Recommended: | | | | |
| Recommended: | | | | |
| Approved: | /s/ Ruben A. Sanchez | Ruben Sanchez | Field Manager | |

Map 1 – Wabayuma Peak Trail



Map 2 – Twenty Six Wash Trail

